

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 AF-10 EUR-12 SS-15 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00
OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 NSC-05 /114 W
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R 292057Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2908
INFO AMEMBASSY/BRASILIA 355
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 7046

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CO
SUBJECT: COFFEE - COLOMBIA PREPARES FOR SERIES OF MEETINGS

1. IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS ON JULY 20, PRESIDENT LOPEZ ONCE AGAIN SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR STABILIZATION OF COFFEE PRICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN COFFEE PRICES DROP SHARPLY, LOPEZ EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD RECOGNIZE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF REDUCED PURCHASING POWER IN MANY PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND WOULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN PRICE STABILIZATION EFFORTS.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT SETS THE STAGE FOR COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN A SERIES OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. IN A BRIEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON JULY 29, COFFEE FEDERATION MANAGER ARTURO GOMEZ JARMILLO HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) MEETING BETWEEN GOMEZ JARAMILLO AND IBC PRESIDENT CAMILO CALASANS IN BRAZIL BEGINNING AUGUST 1. GOMEZ SAID THAT THE PRIMARY TOPIC WILL BE PRICE STABILIZATION WITH THE COLOMBIANS MAINTAINING THAT WHILE PRICES ARE

LIKELY TO RISE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, THEY ARE
UNLIKELY TO REACH AND REMAIN AT LEVELS IN EXCESS OF THE
CURRENT BRAZILIAN EXPORT PRICE. COLOMBIA WILL TAKE THE
POSITION THAT ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES BY THEMSELVES CANNOT
STABILIZE PRICES AND THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN PRODUCERS
AND CONSUMERS IS NECESSARY FOR LONG TERM PRICE STABILITY.

B) THE SUMMIT MEETING IN BOGOTA BETWEEN THE CHIEFS OF STATE OR
GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, PANAMA, JAMAICA AND
COSTA RICA. WHILE THE MAJOR TOPIC OF THE MEETING WILL BE THE PANAMA
CANAL (BOGOTA 6990), COFFEE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION (WHICH GOMEZ JARAMILLO
TERMS A DISASTER), WILL ALSO BE ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDING
TO GOMEZ, MEXICO WILL WANT TO REVIVE A PROPOSAL IT MADE
SEVERAL YEARS AGO WITH REGARD TO GREATER CONTROL OVER
MARKETING CENTRAL AMERICAN COFFEE.

C) POSSIBLE MEETING IN MEXICO IN MID-AUGUST. IF COLOM-
BIA AND BRAZIL ARE ABLE TO REACH SOME AGREEMENT ON PRICE
STABILIZATION, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT A NUMBER OF
PRODUCING COUNTRIES WILL MEET IN MEXICO IN MID-AUGUST TO
DISCUSS THE MATTER. THE MEXICO MEETING MIGHT ALSO TOUCH
ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION AND THE MEXICAN PROPOS-
AL FOR A COFFEE FUND FINANCED BY BOTH PRODUCER AND CON-
SUMER NATIONS.

D) NAIROBI MEETING OF PRODUCER AND CONSUMER NATIONS.
IN GOMEZ' OPINION, THE NAIROBI MEETING WILL CONSIDER THE
COFFEE FUND AND POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL
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COFFEE AGREEMENT.

E) LONDON ICO MEETING. GOMEZ SEES THE LONDON MEETING
TAKING UP PRICE STABILIZATION, REVISIONS TO THE AGREE-
MENT AND THE COFFEE FUND.
DREXLER

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